

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

STATUS INDICATOR

The Examiner is thanked for pointing out the incorrect status indicator of claim 6. The status indicators of claims 6 and of claim 14 have been hereby corrected to reflect that these claims have been withdrawn from further consideration.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 23, and claims 24 and 25 depending therefrom, have been canceled, without prejudice.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, an image reproduction apparatus is provided which is connected to a memory that records photographed image data and photographing information of the photographed image data in association with each other. As recited in independent claim 1, the image reproduction apparatus comprises a display, first to third display control units, and a display area selection unit.

The first display control unit sets a given number of display areas on the display where each display area is

assignable to one of a plurality of different image groups, and the display area selection unit selects, based on the photographing information recorded in the memory, one of the display areas to which an image group including the photographed image data recorded in the memory is assigned.

Further, the second display control unit limits a number of the photographed image data, from among all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area, to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area to a predetermined number. And still further, and significantly, the third display control unit displays other photographed image data that is from among the all of the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area and that is not included within the predetermined number, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data simultaneously displayed in the selected display area while maintaining the display control of the first and second display control units, thereby continuously displaying the other photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area, in the selected display area that is selected by the display area selection unit from among the given number of display areas displayed on the display.

Independent claims 32 and 33, moreover, recite a method and a computer program corresponding to the apparatus of claim 1.

The apparatus, method and computer readable medium (program) of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33 enables viewing within the selected display area with a predetermined number of photographed images at-a-time, such that a first set of the predetermined number of photographed images are simultaneously displayed in the selected display area and then a second set of the predetermined number of photographed images (including the "other photographed image data") are simultaneously displayed in the selected display area and so on.

For example, if the predetermined number is two and there are four photographed image data in all in the image group assigned to the selected display area, first two (first and second) of the photographed image data of the assigned four image data can be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, and then the display of the firstly displayed two of the photographed image data can be changed to the other two (third and fourth) of the photographed image data.

Alternatively, for example, the first two (first and second) of the photographed image data of the assigned four image data can be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, and then the simultaneous display of the first two (first and second) of the photographed image data can be changed to a simultaneous display of the second and third of the assigned four image data and so on.

As a result, viewing of all of the photographed image data in the image group assigned to the selected display area can be achieved in a manner such that only the predetermined number of the photographed images are simultaneously displayed at-a-time within the selected display area while maintaining the calendar view display.

Thus, with the structure and method of the the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33, when a calendar having a plurality of photographed image data assigned to a plurality of different dates is viewed, for example, the user is enabled to recognize all of the images taken on a certain day while recognizing the shooting on any other day in the calendar view display.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner withdrew the previous rejection of the claims as being anticipated by US 2002/0140820 ("Borden"). The Examiner has now made a new rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 20, 21, 23, 32 and 33 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by previously cited US 2003/0033296 ("Rothmuller et al"). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 13 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Rothmuller et al and previously cited USP 6,118,480 ("Anderson et al").

It is respectfully pointed out that the Rothmuller et al reference was previously cited as a primary reference in a

rejection under 35 USC 102 made in the first Office Action dated August 10, 2007. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that this rejection was withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments made in the Amendment filed on November 13, 2007, and the Examiner made a new rejection in the Final Office Action dated December 9, 2008. See the Amendment filed on November 13, 2007, and the Final Office Action dated December 9, 2008.

That is, the Rothmuller et al reference has already been previously cited and the rejection in view of this reference has already been withdrawn.

In any event, it is again respectfully submitted that Rothmuller et al and Anderson, either alone or in combination, do not at all achieve or render obvious the above described features and effects of the third display control unit or step of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33.

As recognized by the Examiner, Rothmuller et al discloses that photos taken on a particular day or during a particular month can be found by displaying the photos in a 2-D histogram or scatter plot such as a calendar view as shown in Fig. 4. For example, an image taken on June 18, 2001 is displayed in the June 18, 2001 display area as shown in Fig. 4 of Rothmuller et al. However, contrary to the claimed present invention, in Rothmuller et al, the remaining (undisplayed) images also taken

on June 18, 2001 cannot be recognized in the calendar view display state shown in Fig. 4 thereof. That is, in Rothmuller et al, in order to view the remaining (undisplayed) photographed images taken on June 18, 2001, the calendar view display state needs to be changed to a list display state of all the images taken on June 18, 2001. And in the list display state, images taken on each of the other days of the calendar month cannot be recognized. See paragraph [0032] of Rothmuller et al.

Anderson et al, moreover, has been merely cited with respect to the subject matter of dependent claims 11 and 13 and does not disclose or suggest the feature of the third display control unit or step of the present invention as recited in independent claims 1, 32 and 33.

Accordingly, it is again respectfully submitted that even if the teachings of Rothmuller et al and Anderson et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure and method of the present invention as recited in each of independent claims 1, 32 and 33 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted all of the pending claims patentably distinguish over all of the cited references of record, taken singly or in any combination consistent with the respective fair teachings thereof, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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